

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein said central webs of said first and second portions are releasably securable together.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein said central webs are substantially normal to said decks.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein said top and bottom webs are releasably securable to said decks.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein said webs are releasably securable to at least one of said decks ~~and/or~~ and each other by fastening means.

Claim 6 (original): The pallet according to claim 5, wherein said fastening means are threaded fasteners.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The pallet according to claim 5, wherein said pallet includes a plurality of holes for receiving each said fastening means.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim 5, wherein said fastening means are ~~welds or~~ rivets.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein said pallet is of a generally rectangular configuration having a front edge, a rear edge and two side edges.

Claim 10 (original): The pallet according to claim 9, wherein at least one edge includes a cover plate.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein at least one elongate bearer includes a stiffener.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein at least one bearer includes an end cap.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein at least one of said top ~~and/or~~ and said bottom deck is of a profiled configuration.

Claim 14 (original): The pallet according to claim 13, wherein said profiled configuration are corrugations.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein said pallet includes sheet material secured to at least one said deck.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The pallet according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 18, wherein said pallet includes cavities for receipt of tines of a forklift or other handling equipment.

Claim 17 (original): The pallet according to claim 16, wherein said cavities are located on all sides of said pallet.

Claim 18 (new): A metal pallet having:  
a top deck of sheet metal;  
a bottom deck of sheet metal spaced from the top deck;  
at least two longitudinally elongated bearers each formed of sheet metal and secured to and extending transversely between the decks so that the top deck is supported on the bottom deck; and wherein

each bearer has a first and a second longitudinally extending bearer portion, with each portion being secured to and extending separately transversely between said decks and wherein each portion has a longitudinally extending top web secured to the top deck, a longitudinally extending bottom web secured to the bottom deck, a longitudinally extending central web extending generally normal to said decks, and longitudinally extending inclined web

portions securing the central web to the top and bottom webs, each inclined web portion being inclined to the decks by an acute angle.